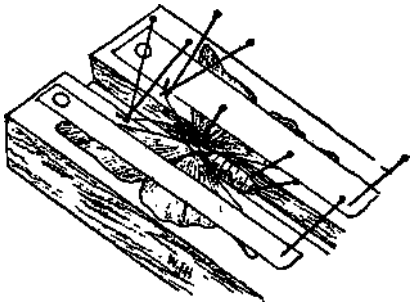

Relaxing Specimens.—When butterflies or moths have been put up in papers or mounted on pins without having their wings expanded and set it becomes necessary, before setting them, to relax them. This may be accomplished in several ways. If the specimens have been pinned it is best to place them on pieces of sheet-cork on a tray of sand which has been thoroughly moistened and treated with a good dose of carbolic acid. Over all a bell-glass is put. A tight tin box will serve the same purpose, but a broad sheet of bibulous paper should always be put over the box, under the lid, before closing it, and in such a way as to leave the edges of the paper projecting around the edges of the lid. This is done to absorb the moisture which might settle by condensation upon the lid and drop upon the specimens. In a bell-glass the moisture generally trickles down the sides. Earthenware crocks with closely fitting lids are even better than tin boxes, but they must have paper put over them, before closing, in the same way

FIG. 58.—Butterfly pinned on board, showing method of holding up body and pinning down antennae,

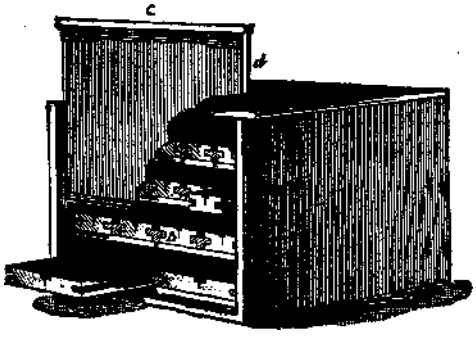

FIG. 59.—Drying-box: *a*, setting-board partly pulled out; *b*, T-shaped strip working in groove on setting-board; *c*, front door, sliding down by tongue, *d*, working in a groove at side in front.

as is done when tin boxes are used. When specimens have been